
NECESSITY AND OBLIGATION TO HAVE A COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS



Document 3

After a number of consultations I signed and published three pastoral statutes, on November 10. The first deals with revaluing our Sunday gatherings, and it took effect December 3. The second statute deals with the necessity and obligation for each parish to have a pastoral council; this statute is to take effect January 1, 1996. The third statute, also to take effect January 1, 1996, deals with the necessity and obligation for each parish to have a committee for economic affairs. I recently explained to you how our diocese is organised; this Pastoral Statute confirms the new stage we are reaching together in order to ensure better coresponsibility and greater transparency.

LEGAL BASIS

The present legislation is based on the following six points: 1) Temporal goods and properties must be prudently and wisely administered; 2) The bishop must see to the formation of the faithful to a sense of participation and collaboration, even regarding the temporal goods required by the Church in order to carry out its mission; 3) The diocese is organised as an episcopal corporation whose only member is the Roman Catholic Bishop; 4) It is of prime importance to protect both the administrators of the Church's goods and properties and to safeguard these temporal goods; 5) It is the prerogative of the Roman Catholic Bishop to set the necessary guidelines regarding the proper management of temporal affairs of all parishes; 6) Members of the Diocesan Council for Economic Affairs and of the Bishop's Council unanimously support the following decisions.

COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Hence, as Bishop of Edmundston, I publish the present Pastoral Statute, notwithstanding all other prior legislation: 1) *In the Diocese of Edmundston, the temporal goods of each parish shall be administered by a parish committee for economic affairs under the authority of the pastor or head of the parish and the parish pastoral council;* 2) *Each parish committee for economic affairs is to use the guidelines published by the Diocesan Council for Economic Affairs, describing the status, tasks, and mode of functioning;* 3) *Only those persons authorised by the bishop are to sign the parish's bank devices and negotiable instruments [cheques, notes, etc.];* 4) *Every bank device is to bear two signatures, that of the pastor or head of the parish, and that of the authorised person;* 5) *Each year, the parish committee for economic affairs shall give to the parish pastoral council a financial statement of the preceding year; once adopted by the parish annual meeting, this statement shall be sent to the bishop within the time frame determined;* 6) *Before the end of each year, the parish committee for economic affairs shall approve and send to the bishop, for information and authorization, a copy of the proposed budget for the coming year.*

This Pastoral Statement, prepared and published in Edmundston November 10, 1995, is to take effect January 1, 1996.

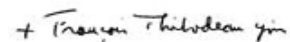
50TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

All good things come to an end, even our Fiftieth Anniversary celebrations...! I have so many thanks to express to all those who made these activities a success, especially the members of the Diocesan Coordinating Committee and the deanery and other committees. We wanted festivities that were simple, not complicated, geared to the people, and meaningful. According to comments made, these ends were very well met. Eight questions were retained for an evaluation of these activities; you can use them as an evaluation guide. The diocesan committee members will gratefully receive any comments you might have to offer. I hope that the following questions will be of help to you: *What did I expect, regarding the diocese's 50th anniversary? What are the main initiatives I took, regarding the celebration? What specific activities did I join in? How do you judge these activities? What is your idea of the Edmundston Diocese, now? What kind of Church are we trying to build together? What kind of follow-up can we give to the activities? What groups and individuals should be specifically thanked? Do those around you share your opinion?* I would appreciate it if you could send your evaluation as soon as possible to the 50th Anniversary Committee, Diocesan Centre, Edmundston, N.B., E3V 3K1. Thank you for your collaboration. I am grateful for all you did to mark the 50th anniversary of our diocese in your milieu. There are only a few hours of festivities remaining: May December 8 and 10 be for you days of thanksgiving and petition.

TOWARDS CHRISTMAS

Advent has already arrived. Our hearts must be filled with a firm hope regarding the final advent, the final coming of Christ. May every gesture of friendship and solidarity prepare our hearts for this great event. I know that in most of our families special attention is paid to Christmas. Not only is the Christmas supper menu carefully planned, along with parties and get-togethers, but they are also preparing through prayer. I congratulate you wholeheartedly. For having lived with you, last year, this preparation for Christmas, I have an inkling regarding how much it means to you: a time of solidarity, an intensive family time, a time of priceless charity. Celebrations are being prepared in each of our deaneries. May we welcome God's promise as a hope for our world. A light shines in our darkness; a voice cries out in our wilderness; our earth is one of liberation. We welcome a sign that is able to change everything.

Have a good week!



+ François Thibodeau, C.J.M.
Bishop of Edmundston

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